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C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1955.



Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector -
W. E. BREEDS, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Shaftesbury R.D. Mait Report 1954
M^ Dalton R392 RSG 2 JUL 1956 30 JUL 1956



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Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1956.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The information with regard to climatic conditions on page 2 was kindly provided by Lord Basing.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breed, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect of the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burtt, for his co-operation and assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Stace Masey, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

John S. Johnson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 5.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.

Rateable value - 1st April 1955 - £44,990; 1st April 1956 - £76,143.
Production of a penny rate - 1955/56 - £180; 1956/57 - £310.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 10,450

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Comparative figures</u>
			(a) Shaftesbury R.D.C. (b) England & Wales.
Total	92	79	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	90	75	resident pop:
Illegitimate	2	4	= 16.3
			18.9
			15.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 11.5	11.5	23.1
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DEATHS.

Total	60	61	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.6	9.1	11.7
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Deaths in infants under one year	6	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 40.9	40.9	24.5
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		<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		-	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		-	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		-	2	3
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)		-	16	18
" " Influenza		-	2	Nil
" " Pneumonia		-	5	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents		-	Nil	2
" " All other accidents		-	1	Nil
" " Suicide		-	2	Nil

B. Nature of the District.

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham. The principal industries and trades of the district are of a mixed nature which includes brewing, glue and fertilizer mixing, brick making, timber works, glove manufacturing and the production of dried milk products. There are two large bacon factories in the district and also The National Stud.

Climatic Conditions.

The total rainfall recorded at The Malt House, Gillingham, during the year amounted to 28.11 inches. Rain or snow fell on 138 days during the year, the greatest fall during 24 hours being on July 13th when the amount was 1.38 inches. On two further occasions during the year one inch or more of rain fell in Gillingham in 24 hours; 1.36 inches, which was in the form of snow, fell on January 13th and 1.30 inches on December 29th. In spite of all this, the rainfall for the year was nearly five inches below the average for this part of the Country. It is interesting to note that on July 18th which was the day of the great floods in the Weymouth district, the recorded rainfall in Gillingham was only .78 inches.

The monthly totals were as follows -

January.....	3.46	inches.	July.....	2.29	inches
February.....	1.76	"	August.....	.99	"
March.....	1.39	"	September.....	1.14	"
April.....	.89	"	October.....	2.56	"
May.....	3.90	"	November.....	3.81	"
June.....	2.05	"	December.....	4.51	"

Total for the year.....28.11 inches.

From the above, it will be noticed that December was the wettest month of the year and April the driest. Actually, during April rain fell on ten days, whereas in July all the rain fell on four days. Therefore, although April registered the lowest monthly rainfall for the year, both July and August were drier months. Unlike 1954, the summer was warm and dry with the temperature in the eighties on several occasions.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council and I do not consider any comments are called for in respect of these services.

The Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

D. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

W.E.Breeds, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.	-	Senior Sanitary Inspector.
D.J.Anthony, M.S.I.A.	-	Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Lt.Col.T.Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S.	-	Part time for meat inspection only.

Clerical staff - one clerk (full time).

The effect of the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector toward the end of 1954 was reflected in the increased amount of house inspections and routine sanitary supervision carried out during the year as compared with that of recent years.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity. It is satisfactory to report that, in spite of a long dry period during the summer and autumn, supplies were maintained and no serious shortages of water were complained of although the comprehensive post-war water scheme has not yet been fully developed.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological and chemical quality of the principal supplies remained satisfactory during the year.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of Sample.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	5	All satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	16	All satisfactory.
Motcombe	26	19 satisfactory. 4 unsatisfactory. 3 suspect.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	7	6 satisfactory. 1 unsatisfactory.
Other Supplies	18	13 satisfactory. 4 unsatisfactory. 1 suspect.

New Works carried out during the year. The main laying in connection with the Council's Southern III Scheme has been completed.

Work continued on the head works of the new Stubhampton source of supply. The sewerage scheme for the protection of the source of this supply was completed but, by the end of the year, the cottage adjacent to the new borehole had not been connected to the sewer.

The 400,000 gallon reservoir at Hill Farm, Iwerne Minster, has been put into service, mainly to supply the high level localities around Tower Hill, Iwerne Minster, the reservoir having been filled from the Council's pumped supply on the Higher Blandford Road.

At the joint works at Mere, the pumping plant has been installed in the newly erected pumphouse and the works have been in full commission, putting the northern part of the district in a very safe position in relation to water that can be pumped from the source into the reservoir at Mere.

New Connections during the year -

Domestic Supplies	32
Agricultural Supplies	23
Other Supplies	4

Distribution. Apart from Bourton, where a considerable amount of properties have private supplies, and Fontmell Magna, where a number of houses are still supplied from the Fontmell Magna private supply, practically all other houses and farms in the district take their supplies from the Council's mains.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new major works have been commenced or carried out during the year. The scheme for Gillingham was still in the course of preparation at the end of the year.

Continued supervision of the council house septic tanks was maintained and a number of improvements effected to some of the tanks during the year.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The quantity of salvage collected during the year amounted to 99 tons. 10 cwts. compared with 84 tons. 1 cwt. in the preceding year. The income received from the sale of the salvage amounted to £818. 4s. Od compared with £532. 2s. 5d. in the preceding year.

(b) Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes in the district.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	43
No. of defects found	11
No. of notices served (informal)	11
No. of notices complied with	9

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
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(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	4	-
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(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	32	6
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Total -	40	36	6
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	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by</u>	<u>H.M. Inspector.</u>
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Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	
Sanitary Conveniences -				
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	
Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	
Total -	7	7	-	

No. of outworkers = 71.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Further complaints were received with regard to smoke nuisance at Bourton. The cause of the nuisance was found and remedied and the nuisance abated.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath in the district to which the public have access.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Licenses in connection with the occupation of six moveable dwellings were granted during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfection of eleven dwellings infested with fleas or flies was carried out during the year. D.D.T. solution and powder were successfully used.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. The number of inspections carried out were 576, treatment being necessary in 453 instances. 43 cases of infestation were referred to the Joint Committee by the Sanitary Inspector.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

There is only one shop in the district licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above-mentioned Act, in respect of which five visits of inspection were made.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspection of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

17. HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district 3133

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	<u>474</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>625</u>
No. of informal notices served	<u>95</u>
No. of informal notices complied with	<u>71</u>
No. of statutory notices served	<u>7</u>
No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>7</u>
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	<u>17</u>

Action taken by the local authority in respect
of such houses -

Demolition Orders made	<u>9</u>
Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	<u>7</u>
(ii) Reconditioning	<u>Nil</u>
(iii) Other action	<u>Nil</u>

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the required return was made to the Ministry of the Council's proposals with regard to slum clearance. This return showed, in the opinion of the Council, the estimated number of unfit houses (requiring to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 or by clearance) was 372 and that the Council proposed to deal with these houses within the next five years. It is proposed to deal with the majority of these houses by individual action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.

From the table above it will be noted that seven individual unfit houses were dealt with during the year.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

One application only was received during the year under the above-mentioned Act; the certificate was granted. It will be noticed, therefore, that property owners are not taking advantage of the provisions of the Act to enable them to increase the rents of their property.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

An increasing number of owners (43 as against 28 in the preceding year) have taken advantage of the provision of grants under the Housing Act 1949 for the improvement of property.

New Houses.

Twenty-two new houses were provided in the district during the year by private enterprise and twelve by the Local Authority. The number of Council houses in the district now totals 622.

229 applicants were on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year of which 137 were resident within the district. The continuing demand for council house accommodation from these applicants together with the needs arising from those persons displaced from unfit houses under the slum clearance proposals makes the continued provision of council house accommodation necessary in the district.

Rehousing.

Seventy families were housed by the Local Authority during the year.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

4

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949

3

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949

3

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

Tuberculin Tested	-	22
Accredited	-	-
Pasteurised	-	145
Non-designated	-	6

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938

55

No. being - restaurant kitchens

4

hotel kitchens

5

food factories

5

No. of such premises inspected

35

No. inspected being - restaurant kitchens

4

hotel kitchens

5

food factories

5

No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	45
No. of such premises registered in respect of -	
(a) Ice-cream	36
(b) Sausages and prepared meats	9
No. of premises inspected during the year	27
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	31

Results:-	Grade	1	-	20
	"	2	-	10
	"	3	-	1
	"	4	-	-

The appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector enabled a larger number of food premises to be inspected during the year than had been the case in recent years.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. Four licensed slaughterhouses were in operation during the year, three of which were in connection with bacon factories, the remaining one being an abattoir dealing with calves, sheep and lambs from which only a small proportion of the carcasses are supplied to retail butchers for local consumption. The following table gives particulars of the total number of animals slaughtered.

Following the receipt of complaints from local authorities into whose areas unsound meat had found its way from slaughterhouses within your district, serious consideration was given to the system of meat inspection provided by the Council at these slaughterhouses. It became clearly apparent that to provide an adequate meat inspection service at the three bacon factories and an abattoir would necessitate the appointment of additional staff equivalent to that of three whole time meat inspectors. The cost which would be incurred to the ratepayers was considered prohibitive and, at the end of the year, negotiations were in progress to ascertain to what extent the bacon factories and abattoir were prepared to meet the additional cost of an improved meat inspection service.

Where most of the animals slaughtered in a district are used for local consumption, it is not unreasonable to expect the inspection of these carcasses for fitness for consumption to be a charge on the local ratepayer. When, however, only a small percentage of the meat produced in the district is for local consumption, the greater proportion being exported to the London and other markets, then such a charge on the local ratepayer is totally inequitable and it is sincerely hoped that the impending food and drugs legislation will remedy this anomaly.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>
Number killed	116632	57	3446	1866
Number inspected	38335	57	1774	1069
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	236	-	2	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1741	-	42	13
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.7	-	1.2	.8
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	152	4	1	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	3510	-	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	5.1	6.01	.02	-

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises.

No. of inspections carried out during the year 95

Quantities condemned -	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Pigs plucks	-	3.	19.
Smoked bacon	15.	0.	0.
Beef	-	-	6.
Total	- 15.	3.	25.
<u>Other foodstuffs -</u>			
Tinned stewed steak	3.	1.	25.
" ox tongue	-.	2.	4.
" pressed beef	-.	-.	12.
" corned beef	-.	-.	6.
" ham	-.	1.	24.
" pineapple	-.	2.	4.
" quinces	-.	1.	0.
" grapefruit	-.	1.	0.
" peaches	-.	-.	1.
Total	- 5.	2.	20.
Grand Total	- 21.	2.	17.

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2472
Total No. of informal notices served	132
Total No. of informal notices complied with	105
Total No. of statutory notices served	7
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	7
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	165
Whooping Cough	59
Pneumonia	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Scarlet Fever	1

From these figures it will be observed that Measles was epidemic during the year and that no case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non.Respiratory.</u>
5	1	-	-

Food Poisoning -

One suspected case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

